

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 H-02 L-02 PRS-01

PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

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MANILA FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BEXP, ADB, BM

SUBJECT: U.S. PROCUREMENT FROM ADB-FINANCED PROJECTS

REF: MANILA 1818

1. RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES PARA 2 REFTEL AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CURRENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF ADB PROJECTS AND ADEQUACY OF INFORMATION FLOW.

EMBASSY BELIEVES WE ARE AT LEAST AS WELL INFORMED ON ADB-FINANCED PROJECTS AS WE ARE ON THOSE PROJECTS FINANCED BY IBRD. THIS POST'S CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF ADB PROJECTS DEPENDS LARGELY ON BANK'S PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS MONTHLY OPERATIONAL INFORMATION, QUARTERLY REPORT AND MONTHLY REPORT TO DIRECTORS. MONTHLY OPERATIONAL INFORMATION IS ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN KEEPING US ABREAST OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. WE HOPE THAT WE CONTINUE TO RECIEVE THESE PUBLICATIONS PROMPTLY WHEN THEY ARE RELEASED.

2. BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS WITH FACT FINDING MISSIONS THAT VISIT BURMA WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS BOTH FOR BANK AND EMBASSY. WE COULD UNCLASSIFIED

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PROVIDE MISSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VIEWS

ON SUITABILITY OF PROJECTS BEING INVESTIGATED, AND, IN TURN, WE COULD GAIN FROM MISSIONS ADVANCE INSIGHT AS TO EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES NEEDED FOR PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. IN PAST THESE MISSIONS HAVE NOT NORMALLY CONTACTED THE EMBASSY AND OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT ONLY RARELY HAVE THEY INCLUDED US MEMBERS OF BANK STAFF. BANK REPORTS ON TRAVEL PLANS PROVIDE ONLY TENTATIVE TIME PERIODS (NO SPECIFIC DATES) AS TO WHEN MISSIONS WILL BE IN BURMA, AND AS RESULT, WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT THEM. HENCE, WOULD APPRECIATE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON DATES WHEN SUCH MISSIONS WILL BE IN COUNTRY AND REQUEST THAT MISSIONS BE ENCOURAGED TO ALLOW SOME TIME DURING THEIR STAY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY. WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATIONS OF ANY GUB RELUCTANCE TO DEAL WITH US MEMBERS OF BANK STAFF OR HOSTILITY TO CONTACTS BETWEEN VISITING MISSION AND RANGOON DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

3. (B) MEANS TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST OF U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY REGARDING ADB-FINANCED PROJECTS.

BELIEVE BANK'S DESIGNATION "NOT FOR PUBLIC USE" SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM AS MANY PUBLICATIONS AS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY MONTHLY OPERATIONAL INFORMATION, SO THAT THEY CAN BE MORE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND PUBLICIZED WITHIN U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

4. THIS POST REGULARLY CABLES INFORMATION ON GUB TENDERS TO USDOC, AMEMBASSIES BANGKOK AND SINGAPORE AND CONGEN HONG KONG. AS PROCUREMENT FOR ADB-FINANCED PROJECTS DONE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TENDER, WE FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURE AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO BRING THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTENTION OF U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. TO DATE, GUB HAS ISSUED ONLY THREE TENDERS FOR PROCUREMENT UNDER ADB-FINANCED PROJECTS. TWO OF THESE ARE STILL PENDING AND THE THIRD WAS WON BY A JAPANESE FIRM.

5. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT AS BANK CURRENTLY REVIEWING MEANS OF TRACKING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT EARLIER SUGGESTIONS THAT ADB STATION PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BURMA TO OVERSEE BANK-FINANCED PROJECTS.
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